

MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals, Tech Coordinators, Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators, and School staff working with online assessment preparation

FROM: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator

SUBJECT: Device Readiness Update (Smarter Balanced Assessment System)

DATE: September 12, 2013

The following spreadsheet (which can also be found online: <http://bit.ly/14ONcwK>) is being released from the Technology Readiness Tool associated with Vermont's Smarter Balanced Assessment work. The online assessments will begin in SY2014-15 and replace the current NECAP test. The data within this spreadsheet focuses only on the *devices* that meet the minimum standards for assessment readiness. If you have questions about this data, please call or email Peter Drescher, Education Technology & State Readiness Coordinator, at 802-828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us.

All schools have an individual that has been selected as the Technology Readiness contact. That individual has been entering data for your school over the past two semesters. **The tool will continue to require input through to SY2014-15 each semester.** Your Technology Readiness contact has the ability at this point to generate various reports from the tool indicating device readiness, device to test-taker ratios, network indicators, and overall school readiness. It is urged that those individuals be proactive in exporting reports about their school or supervisory union. Those reports could be helpful in supporting 1:1 computing initiatives and in helping the community to understand the necessity of adequate infrastructure to begin the move to online assessments.

The overall percentage of schools in Vermont that **meet the minimum standard** at this time according the Technology Readiness Tool is **55%**. Read on to understand that there is a significant margin of error in that result. The newest collection of data is intended to provide a more accurate picture of Vermont's readiness.

It is important as you read the data to understand that:

- This data from the Technology Readiness Tool is not completely accurate. The tool allows schools to **miss fields of input** and mark the data entry complete, when that is actually not the case. This in turn reports the school as not fulfilling the minimum standard, though it may actually have met the standard if the missing data was entered. For example, if the "Testing Environment" question is not answered, then the tool records the device as not meeting the minimum requirement, thus skewing the overall percentage of devices "ready" for the assessment.

- The tool is only as accurate as the data actually entered. If there is an entry here with numerous devices but a low or 0 percentage, “meeting requirements” then it most likely means that the individual entering the data missed some fields that required input.

Version 3 of this Technology Readiness Tool has been released as of August 12th. Many improvements exist within this version including not allowing input to be “missed.” Every school is now required to go back in to the tool and enter and update new or existing data. If you are the contact for the Tech Readiness Tool at your school or SU, please make the updates as soon as possible. In this version, the “mark data entry complete” prompt will notify about the fields that are missing before allowing the data to be marked complete. This should help us reflect a more valid indicator of schools “ready” for online assessment.

The *deadline* for entering this data is September 20, 2013.

